

THE STAR

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THE ART OF CONVERSATION

When one reads about the French salon, and the wise and witty men and women who made that the power it was in the social and political life of the eighteenth century, one is inclined to lament that in our day conversation is well-nigh a lost art. How seldom do we know of a social function where those who participate rely wholly, or even chiefly, upon conversation? Would not most of us vote such an occasion "too stupid for anything?" And very likely we should be right. We think we must dance, or play some game with a prize for the most successful. Yet Emerson asks: "What is a match at whist, or draughts, or billiards, or chess, to a match of mother-wit, or of knowledge and resources?"

Oh! some one will say, that might do for such men as Emerson, but for ordinary people mere conversation is dull enough. Yet every one knows something that we do not, and we can gain some useful or interesting information from him. It is a trial of our skill in conversation to find out what our companion can contribute to our store, as well as to share ours with him. A conversation is not a monologue, and the man or woman who does all the talking can not be considered a good conversationalist. Such a person is sometimes said to have a great command of language; but Whately says he has the same command of language that a man has of a horse that runs away with him.

The faculty of drawing out what is best in another is quite as important as that of expressing one's own ideas. Some one has happily defined a bore as "one who always wants to talk about himself when you want to talk about yourself." Sydney Smith desired in a loquacious gentleman "a few flashes of silence."

Do you not know people with whom you find it very difficult to talk? You never feel at ease in their presence, and never have anything to say. You leave them with the uncomfortable feeling that you have appeared unusually stupid. And do you not know other people who affect you in just the opposite way, and draw you out in a manner that surprises yourself? The one class possesses tact, and the other lacks it. This is a very serious lack in one who would be a good conversationalist. "Tact," says Miss Jewett, "is after all a kind of mind reading." If you possess this important qualification, you know in spite of your friend's polite effort at attention, that he is not deeply interested in what you are saying; and having made the discovery, you adroitly change the subject, or better still, give him a chance to do so.

For a successful conversation, good listening is as important as good talking. A look of sympathy, an occasional exclamation of surprise or pleasure, a suggestive question, may make your companion fluent and bright; when an abstracted, unresponsive expression on your part would make him dull and prosy, or silent altogether. The brilliant Lord Chesterfield said: "When I see a man absent in mind, I choose to be absent in body."

"This business of conversation," remarks the Autocrat of the Breakfast Table, "is a very serious matter. There are those whom it weakens one to talk with an hour more than a day's fasting would do." The really good talkers, he says, are those "who have fresh ideas and plenty of good, warm words to dress them in." Want of ideas is probably the greatest hindrance to conversation; but is not such a lack inexorable in these days of general diffusion of knowledge? We are not all rich in fancy or brilliant in wit; but we may all have on hand an abundant supply of ideas, original or otherwise. Facts and ideas that we have gained from our own observation or experience are often more useful in conversation than those which we have obtained from books, since they are less likely to be common property. One man will travel around the globe, and be able to talk of nothing but the execrable way in which his chops were cooked in different countries; while another never returns from a short walk in city or country without something interesting to tell.

In one of Ian Maclaren's books we read that "the art of conversation stands mainly in touching details lightly and avoiding the letter I." Some people, like Emerson, find the "law of one to one" a peremptory for conversation," which he calls "the practice and consummation of friendship." Others are stimulated to greater brilliancy by the presence of many.

Surely the art of conversation is one well worth cultivating; and it is one in which women are fitted to excel. In the days before it was common for women to study Latin, that brilliant talker, Lord Macaulay, said: "A man who thinks the knowledge of Latin essential to the purity of English diction either has never conversed with an accomplished woman or does not deserve to have conversed with her." "Nobody knows like a woman how to say things at the same time sweet and profound."

By all means let us try to revive the noble art of conversation; for, as Lowell says, "Books are good dry forage; we can keep alive on them; but men are the only fresh pasture."—Emily Tolman, in Interior.

CASTORIA.

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

COUNTRY CORRESPONDENCE

Interesting Items Collected By Our Rural Editors

EASTLAKE

Mr. and Mrs. Allan were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Stafford during the Christmas festivities. Mrs. D. W. Eaton and daughter, Miss Ferelin, were the guests of Mrs. DeLane one day last week. Mr. B. B. F. Whitman has had the misfortune to lose his valuable Jersey cow.

FLEMINGTON

Mr. E. B. Ragsdale and mother of Winnsboro, S. C., are visiting friends in this vicinity. Miss Inez Mathews is visiting friends in High Springs. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Mathews visited Ocala Saturday. Mr. Charles H. Gray and Mrs. Mary R. Chitty were married Sunday afternoon at the home of the bride, Rev. A. L. Prisoc officiating. Only a few intimate friends were present. We had a nice rain Monday, which was very acceptable to our farmers and truck growers. Our farmers are now busily engaged in putting in oats. Quite a large acreage will be planted.

OCKLAWAHA

A large number of railroad tickets were sold on Christmas day. Mr. and Mrs. Carson and niece, Miss Lebron Tolney, arrived last week and are pleasantly situated in their cottage on the lake shore. Mrs. H. Volkmann, daughter and niece, Misses Louise and Emma Volkmann and friend, Mrs. Lee, arrived Monday from New York and will spend a few months at Mrs. Volkmann's winter home near the lake. Mrs. C. C. Clements, who has been quite ill, is rapidly recovering. There were two dances Christmas night. One at Mr. Bush's and the other at Mr. Freeman's. The attendance at both was large and music excellent.

STANTON

Mr. Ed. Foster arrived last week from Westerly, R. I. Mr. A. S. J. McKinney and Mr. Caine went to Esmeralda duck shooting Thursday. Mr. Caine, of Alabama, is the guest of Mrs. McKinney for a few weeks. Mrs. Blair gave a progressive euchre party Wednesday evening in honor of Miss Kate Rodgers, who is spending the holidays with her. Mrs. Blair and son, Mr. Walker Blair, are from New York City and are occupying the Arnold house for a few months for the winter. Rev. Hugh Morris and wife, of Waldo, are the guests of friends here. Miss Mary McIver is spending the week at her home in Ocala. Mr. E. J. Lytle, an expert orange packer, is in Tampa for the orange season.

A POWDER MILL EXPLOSION
Removes everything in sight; so do drastic mineral pills, but both are mighty dangerous. Don't dynamite the delicate machinery of your body with calomel, croton oil or aloes pills, when Dr. King's New Life Pills, which are gentle as a summer breeze, do the work perfectly. Cures Headache, Constipation. Only 25c. at Garrett & Gerig's Drugstore.

CLEARING SALE

To make room for our 1901 models, we will offer our present stock of first class wheels for both ladies and gentlemen at from \$8 up, new and second hand. Come in and let us show you some rare bargains. We have the only first class bicycle repairer, re-builder and enameleer in town. A big line of bicycle supplies of all kinds in stock. Ocala Bicycle Co., Montezuma Block.

SUBSTANTIAL PRESENTS

Standley, Cranford & Co. have a very handsome pneumatic tired bike wagon, equipped with bicycle ball bearing wheels; also handsome rubber tired buggies, and a big line of those stylishly built and substantially made Columbus and Barnesville buggies, either of which would make a most acceptable holiday present. If you can't spend quite so much money, get a handsome set of harness. We have everything in the line of wagons, buggies and harness. We are located in the old Bazar store building and have the three rooms filled as full of goods as they will hold. Don't forget us. Standley, Cranford & Co.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Bring or send your woolen, silk or satin goods to the New York Steam Dye Works, South Orange avenue, and have them cleaned, dyed or pressed. Soiled or creased garments renovated and made to look as good as new. Goods dyed any color desired and warranted fast colors. Any kind of repairing done. All work done promptly. Will call for and deliver your work, by dropping a card to The N. Y. Steam Dye Works.

FOR CHRISTMAS TRAVEL

The Seaboard Air Line Railway has put on the following rates for the Christmas holidays: To all points in Florida a rate of one fare for the round trip will be given; and to all points outside the state a rate of one and one-third fares for the round trip. This latter rate embraces all points east of the Mississippi and south of the Ohio and Potomac rivers. The tickets go on sale December 22, 23, 24, 25, 30 and January 1st, and are limited until January 4th, 1901. For students, on presentation of certificates from the principals, superintendents or presidents of schools or colleges, the same rates will apply, with the difference that the tickets will be sold December 15 to 21, with a final limit to January 8th, 1901.

THE BOSTON STORE

GREET'S YOU WITH A HAPPY NEW YEAR

SOUTH LAKE WEIR

Mr. C. S. Gates spent Christmas day with his family and returned to Ocala on Wednesday. Miss Carrie B. York arrived from Massachusetts on Monday evening, and is the guest of Mrs. Hunt. A delightful croquet party was given on Christmas day at Pleasant Hills House and a most exciting game was played. Mr. Charlie Williams returned last week to West Palm Beach, after a brief vacation. Mr. Ernest L. Ricker is spending the holidays with his mother. News was received on Monday evening that Mrs. Warren, a sister of Mrs. B. B. Ricker, had passed quietly away at her home in Cambridge, Mass. The marriage is announced of Mr. Arsene LeMan, on the 26th instant, in Pittsburg, Pa. A candy pull was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Sigmon on Friday evening. Dancing was indulged in until a late hour, and was much enjoyed by all. The South Lake Weir Sunday school gave an entertainment on Christmas Eve, but owing to the bad weather, few were present. The program consisted of recitations and music, followed by a Christmas tree. A very pleasant evening was passed.

WEIR PARK

Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Hemple and little child were the guests of Captain and Mrs. Russell last week en route to their home in New York City. They have been spending a few months in Electra. As Mr. Hemple has purchased property in Bellevue, he expects to visit this section next winter. Miss Anna Wells is spending the week at her home in Fort McCoy. She will return Saturday. Mr. O. S. Flanders and sister-in-law Miss Houghton, of Candler, enjoyed Christmas dinner with Captain and Mrs. Russell. Mr. and Mrs. W. Cason and family spent Christmas with Mrs. Cason's father, Mr. Holloway, of Summerfield. Captain and Mrs. Russell attended the concert at Candler Christmas night. Miss Pillans, of Electra, went to Tampa Wednesday to attend the State Teachers' meeting. Miss A. Ferelin Eaton was the guest of Mrs. A. S. J. McKinney of Stanton Wednesday and Thursday.

HIS LIFE WAS SAVED

Mr. J. E. Lilly, a prominent citizen of Hannibal, Mo., lately had a wonderful deliverance from a frightful death. In telling of it he says: "I was taken with Typhoid Fever, that ran into Pneumonia. My lungs became hardened. I was so weak I couldn't even sit up in bed. Nothing helped me. I expected to soon die of Consumption, when I heard of Dr. King's New Discovery. One bottle gave great relief. I continued to use it, and now am well and strong. I can't say too much in its praise." This marvelous medicine is the surest and quickest cure in the world for all Throat and Lung Trouble. Regular sizes 50 cents and \$1. Trial bottles 10c. at Garrett & Gerig's and all other drugstores; every bottle guaranteed.

Help is needed at once when a person's life is in danger. A neglected cough or cold may soon become serious and should be stopped at once. One Minute Cough Cure quickly cures coughs and colds and the worst cases of croup, bronchitis, grippe and other throat and lung troubles. Anti-Monopoly Drugstore.

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That we have carried in years, is now on exhibition in our Store and is attracting the attention of the appreciative Holiday Shopper.

We have an Unusually Pretty Line of
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WATCHES
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